

City Manager's COVID-19 Update – Stay Informed

Whether you are in the public or private sector, COVID-19 has impacted all of us in so many ways. We continue to work to provide the community with the services and support it needs to sustain us through this uncharted event. As a County we work well together, and as such we continue to work regionally, sharing information and resources that will help our communities during this time. We are in constant contact with the county agencies so that we can provide you with the latest information about COVID-19 and the resources that are being made available. To protect residents and staff from transmission of COVID-19, the city of Belmont has closed its public buildings and offices; however, essential public safety and public works services remain available without interruption.



I like to recognize the City's leadership and employees for their response through these unprecedented times. There is no other team I would rather be serving than #TeamBelmont. This update is also to reassure you that the City staff is fully engaged, and City Hall is operational! However, we are doing things a little differently. During this time our focus is to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of our community. City Staff is focusing its efforts on:

Public Safety

Delivery of Essential Public Services

Supporting Our Business Community

Communications

Our maintenance staff is also dedicated to keeping our roadways, utilities and our parks well maintained and safe. Garbage and recycling services by Recology are still operating on scheduled days.

We are practicing the social distancing parameters with some staff working remotely, while others are on-site. Although we are "closed" physically to the public we are currently available during regular business hours via phone or email. Please refer to the department list and contacts at: <https://www.belmont.gov/home/showdocument?id=19305>

The following resources page on the City's website was developed to help residents and businesses keep up to date and address basic questions that might arise. The City will continue to keep you informed. You can find extensive resource information for businesses, families, and seniors on the City's website at: <https://www.belmont.gov/our-city/city-news/health-and-safety>, or by calling the County's 24/7 call center by dialing 211. This site will remain up to date and accessible on the City's main webpage until no longer needed.

A special note to the Belmont Senior Community: please call the Twin Pines Senior Center at 650-595-7444 or 650-595-7445 for assistance. If we miss your call, please leave a message and we'll return your call as soon as possible.

Here are some basic reminders and resources.

Stay at home order

The goal is to stay at home and when you go out for “essential” needs, keeping your distance to avoid the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19. Do not go into other neighborhoods for recreation. This increases the risk of virus spread. Always maintain social distance. Wash your hands frequently and follow all the other recommended actions. It should go without saying, but if you’re sick, do not go out at all.



We understand that these instructions are challenging for everyone, but it is imperative that we work together to minimize avoidable transmission of the Coronavirus.

Public Safety resources

Our Public Safety personnel remain diligent in serving the community during these difficult times. We ask you to use on-line (www.belmont.gov) and phone reporting ([650-595-7400](tel:650-595-7400)) for non-emergency incidents. We continue to provide excellent service to our citizens and businesses. However, we cannot possibly have a law enforcement presence at every city trail and park and be available for higher priority calls for service.

We ask that you model the right behavior and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. Over time, as word spreads, people will get the seriousness of this situation.

Virtual City Council meeting

Belmont City Council will hold virtual meetings, with video teleconferencing replacing physical meetings. Some or all of the city council members may participate in these meetings by teleconference as authorized by Executive Order N-25-20 issued by the Governor of California on March 12, 2020.

Members of the public are discouraged to attend City Council meetings in person for the time being, but you can watch on the city’s website or cable channel. The public are also encouraged to provide and forward any communications regarding agenda items in advance of, or during the meeting to tcook@belmont.gov. We are keeping the agenda on the short side to make sure this all works as it should.

Virtual Recreation

Please join our Park and Recreation staff over the coming weeks for a new series called #VirtualBelmont! Staff will bring you ideas for virtual recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities, including games, arts & crafts, educational activities, exercise and more! Check out the webpage at <https://www.belmont.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/virtual-rec-2285> or follow them on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter! @BelmontParksRec

Crowded Trails and Parks

Please heed the warnings, just go outside for essential needs or to get some exercise, but avoid contact with others, crowded trails and parks. To put it simply what we are doing is not enough. As we are seeing an increase in the number of people going to parks and trails.

Stay local. Stay home. Save lives.

Economic Development and Assistance

The City is focused on researching and providing information to support our business community. A list of resources is listed and updated at:

<https://www.belmont.gov/our-city/city-news/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/health-safety-2277>

Belmont Businesses Open:

For those looking to support our Belmont restaurants, grocery stores and businesses open during this time for takeout, delivery services, and their hours you can check here: <https://www.belmont.gov/our-city/city-news/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/belmont-businesses-open>. Thank you for supporting our local businesses as you can.

Also, Next time you go shopping please buy only what you need for a week. Our local grocery stores will remain OPEN and rest assured food and essential supplies remain plentiful. There is no need to over buy. This will help stores catch up with the increased demand. Think of it this way: Buy Smart. Don't Overfill Your Cart. There is enough for all.

Volunteer Opportunities and Community Resources

Belmont residents have reached out to us about their generous desire to volunteer and to help serve vulnerable members of our community. To help make sure our community can help those in need in a safe way, that is mindful of health risks and keeping our at-risk populations protected, we encourage everyone to go directly to our local established social services agencies to volunteer.

We'll continue to share volunteer updates at <https://www.belmont.gov/our-city/city-news/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/volunteer-opportunities-for-covid-19>

The San Mateo County Strong Fund

On March 24, 2020 the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved \$3,000,000 in emergency funding to support those most impacted in San Mateo County in partnership with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. ALL money donated will stay inside San Mateo County and not one penny will go elsewhere, so you can have confidence that you are helping your neighbors.



A process is currently being developed for distribution of these donations. If you are an individual, business or non-profit in need of economic help, or like donating to the San Mateo County Strong Fund please go to: <https://www.smcstrong.org/>

Background Information

Here is a recap of events in response to the spread of COVID-19, the County of San Mateo declared a local emergency on March 3, 2020, and the Governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency on March 4, 2020. On March 16, 2020, the San Mateo County Health Officer issued an order prohibiting among other things all non-essential gatherings of any number of individuals and directing all businesses and governmental agencies to cease non-essential operations. On Monday, March 16th, I declared a Local State of Emergency to protect the public health and safety caused by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 16, the City Council reviewed and ratified the State of Emergency at a Special Council Meeting. The proclamation can be read at

<https://www.belmont.gov/home/showdocument?id=19295>.

Additionally, on Thursday, March 19, the Governor and California State Public Health Officer ordered all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence, except as needed to maintain continuity of operation of the federal critical infrastructure sectors.

The City's Proclamation allows us to take the steps necessary to protect the safety of our community and staff in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. These steps include streamlined purchasing to secure the resources necessary to respond in a timely manner; the implementation of rules or regulations, as needed for the protection of life or property; implementation of programs or services to protect life or property; ramping up or down of City service delivery in response to COVID-19; social distancing protocols; and the recovery of costs and community assistance related to any of these responses.



COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus.

**Symptoms include coughing, fever
and shortness of breath.**

To help prevent the spread of the virus and protect yourself,
follow these recommendations:



Wash your hands
or use hand
sanitizer often.



Avoid close contact
with people who are sick.



Keep your distance
from others when
you are sick.



Avoid touching eyes,
mouth and nose with
unwashed hands.



Cover your cough
or sneeze with a
tissue, then throw it
in the trash and wash
your hands.



Eat healthy foods
and drink plenty
of fluids.

For questions talk to your health care provider or call 2-1-1